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of a projection exposure apparatus as recited in any one of
claims 18 through 25.--.

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable consideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

To place the subject application in better form, the specification and abstract have been amended to correct minor informalities. Also, by separate paper, Applicant requests approval to amend Figure 20. No new matter has been added by these changes.

Claims 11 through 26 are now presented for consideration in lieu of claims 1 through 10, which have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 11 and 18 are independent.

Applicant submits that claims 11 through 17 patentably define features of the projection optical system of the present invention, while claims 18 through 25 patentably define features of the projection exposure

apparatus of the present invention and claim 26 patentably defines features of the device manufacturing method of the present invention. Therefore, Applicant submits that the instant application is in condition for allowance.

Favorable consideration and an early passage to issue are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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